by a great number of cavities, which may be compared with those of a thimble. Each of these depressions is lined by the characteristic pigment, and also connected at the bottom with the nervous ganglion, which occupies the centre of the papilla, and, as it were, forms its nucleus. The depressions are filled with a very transparent gelatinous matter, forming a slight projection at the surface of the oculiferous tubercle, and terminated by a convex portion, like the cornea of the higher animals. By the action of glycerine, this refractive matter swells up, and the projection just mentioned becomes more marked.

From the description that we have just given of it, some physiologists will no doubt be led to refer the visual organ of *Asteracanthion* to the great division of idoscopic eyes. But, notwithstanding the presence of a refractive body, which militates in favour of this assimilation, we shall regard this organ as a photoscopic eye. As in these, the pigment-cells cover the nervous element, and constitute the screen upon which the luminous rays impinge. What, then, may be the function of the refractive substance analogous to the vitreous humour that fills the capsule of the eye? It will serve to collect and concentrate the luminous rays upon the impressionable pigment, and consequently to render the perception of light, and of its different degrees, more intense and perfect.

Thus we find in the *Asteracanthion* a specialization of functions which no doubt represents the highest type of organization of photoscopic eyes, and a new example of those tendencies which nature appears to obey in perfectioning organs—tendencies from which an eminent physiologist of our day has drawn such brilliant deductions.—*Comptes Rendus*, January 16, 1865, p. 103.

Notice of a new Variety of Rhodona punctata *from the Swan River.* By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., &c.

Mr. Edward Gerrard has brought to me a Lizard from the Swan River, which differs considerably from the common form of *Rhodona punctata**, indeed so much so that I was at first inclined to regard it as a new species of that interesting genus; but on reconsideration, as it only differs in the distribution of the colours, I think that it is better to regard it as a variety. It may be named after its discoverer, *Rhodona punctata*, var. *Gerrardii*. The body white, with three broad black streaks, which are continued from the head to rather beyond the base of the tail; each of the streaks is as wide as, or rather wider than, two-thirds of two series of scales. The two outer streaks commence on the side of the nose, and are continued across and along the eye and down the side of the body; the central vertebral streak commences at the back of the head. The three streaks are continued on the tail; but they become wider, and are broken up into spots, which have some more or less distinct white streaks across them. The upper surface of the hind thighs is black-spotted, the spots forming a kind of streak; the chin, belly, and under part of the tail are white.

Hab. Swan River.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* June 28, 1864.

* Cat. of Lizards in B. M. (1845), p. 89.